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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

19 April 1968

Budapest Offered as Vietnam Negotiations Site

On 18 April the Hungarian government offered its capital as a site for Vietnam peace negotiations. The propagandistic tone of the 800 word announcement and the failure of the Hungarians to give prior notice to the US, however, casts doubts on the sincerity of this gesture, which adds to the Communist pressure on the US. Despite Radvanyi's revelations in Life magazine, it appears that the Hungarians are taking another cheap fling at portraying themselves as potential middlemen in the Vietnam situation.

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Czechoslovak Defense Ministry Denies Reduction in Military Service

The Czechoslovak Defense Ministry has denied claims printed in the 18 April issue of the Czech youth organ Mlada Fronta, that compulsory military aservice would be reduced from 2 years to 18 months. The denial said that there had been no official release of such information and that the Ministry was preparing a statement of clarification.

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COMMENT: a similar cutback in military service is being considered in Hungary. The Hungarians reportedly began to study this during the latest Central Committee plenum held on 9-11 March.

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Czechoslovak Intelligence Officer Who Investigated Masaryk's Death Found Hanged

The Czechoslovak news agency reported today that Major Bedrich Pokorny, a former intelligence officer who investigated the death of Jan Masaryk was found hanged in a woods near Brno three weeks ago. Pokorny worked in the political office of the Ministry of Interior in 1948 and also took part in the investigation of the mysterious death of Major Augustin Schramm, the officer in charge of the investigation of Masaryk's death.

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Poland's Spychalski to Visit Iran

Newly elected Polish head of state, former Defense Minister Spychalski, will fulfill his predecessors obligations by visiting Iran in early May.

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COMMENT: Former president Ochab cancelled the official visit about two weeks before he resigned on 8 April. Since then, the Iranians have been worried whether to consider the visit on or off. This will be Spychalski's first trip abroad as head of state.

Market for Yugoslav Sex Tonic Softens

The plans of the Bosnian village of Kladanj to sell its local spring water, highly prized for its reputed ability to increase male sexual potency, apparently have fallen through. Officials once more are giving the water away free --limit, one quart per person per day. Previously the village authorities had been forced to erect a six-foot barbed wire fence around the spring to keep out the hordes of men from all over Europe.

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Kadar Defends Regime at Popular Front Congress

The initial reporting by AP of Kadar's address to the Popular People's Front meeting on 18 April indicates that the Hungarian party boss is defensive over internal policies. At one point, Kadar said, "There has not been for some time, and there will not be in the future any sensation in Hungary of the nature to please the imperialists." Kadar went on to

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say that the one party system would remain in Hungary. Kadar also expressed his wish that the Polish and Czechoslovak parties "strengthen the forces of socialism in their countries." [redacted]

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Albania Uses "Popular Investigations" in its Criminal Procedure

"Popular investigations" which utilize the "great energy of the masses--their capability, political consciousness, intelligence and maturity" have proved helpful in expediting criminal investigations in Albania, according to a 16 April article in the party daily Zeri i Popullit. The author, Chief of the Investigation Directorate attached to the Office of the Attorney General, notes that by doing away with the bureaucratic investigating process the time between commitment of the crime and trial has been considerably reduced. [redacted]

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COMMENT: Details are lacking on the particulars of what constitutes a "popular investigation", but from the sound of Kamani's article civil liberties may have suffered a further setback in Albania.

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